

A  
TRUE RE-  
LATION OF THE

most Inhumane and bloody Murther,  
of Master *James* Minister and Preacher  
of the word of God at *Rockland*  
in NORFOLKE.

Committed by one *Lowe* his Curate, and  
consented vnto by his Wife, who both were Exe-  
cuted for this Fact this last Assises: He being Drawne  
and Hanged, and Shee burned, who at his  
Death confessed the Murther of  
his owne Child, vnlawfully  
begotten, and Buried  
it him selfe.



L O N D O N

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great North-doore of *S. Pauls*.

1 6 0 9.

# THE LAST DAY

of the World of God's Judgment  
as it is described in the Bible  
and the Apocrypha

Committed by one Thomas C. C. and  
another by one Thomas C. C.



Printed for R. Taylor and W. Wallingford  
at the Sign of the Green Dragon  
in the Strand

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**A true Relation of the most Inhu-  
mane and bloody Murther, of Master  
James, Minister and Preacher of the word at  
Rockland in Norfolk, vpon Twelfe-night  
last past, Committed by one Lowe  
a Curate vnto Master**

**I A M E S.**



**A**t a Towne in Norfolk, called  
Rockland, dwelt one Master  
James, a Minister, and Preacher of  
the word, a man wel reckoned in the  
generall report of all, who having  
two Benefices and growing some-  
what in yeares, to bee the more ease  
vnto his age, receiued into his house  
one Lowe (a man that profest himselfe a Scholler, and one  
that had before time been Employed in like place) as a Rea-  
ding Minister to supply his place at one of his Cures. This  
Lowe, thus intertaind had together with an Annuall  
stipend his diet and lodging in the house of his said Master.  
And now marke the subtilty of Satan, who spares not to  
sow the seeds of enuy, and emulation euer, in the bosomes  
of those that are (or at least wile should be) the frew seedes-  
men of the euerlasting Haruest, as in the sequell is plainly  
Apparant. This Lowe had no sooner with Clops Snake  
felt the warme beate of entertainment, and tasted the  
sweete Milke of preferment: but the mortall enemy of all  
mankind, Insinuates himselfe into his bosome, perswading  
him that he was borne to higher fortunes, then to liue so  
base and stipendary a life, vnder so meane and much vn-  
worthy a Master, and withall instructed him, how and  
which way he might raise his estate, to the very height  
and

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And toppe of his desires, viz. If hee could but inauget or graft himselfe into the loue of his Mistresse, A woman of good Parentage, vertuous education, and (to the outward eye) of ciuill and vnblemisht reputation. This womans chastity notwithstanding, he speedely attempts, and effectually, as it manifestly appeares, obtaines; the manner how: the times when: the places where, the meanes and causes by whom, were too intricate and tedious to expresse. Had they yet paine to heare, and waded no deeper into the whirle-pool of damnation: but Satan that loues to haue his bondslaues, soted all ouer with the Coale of damnation, further suggests, that howsoeuer hee may seeme to embrace the shadow of his content, the substance is still inioyed, and rests at the command of Master Iames his Master, and that hee but like a slave by stealth, and by Times allowance, sparingly and fearefully inioyes it: Yet so apparant were their gestures, so publick their meetings, and so familiar their speeches and outward behauiours, that most thereabouts suspected, many priuately murmured, and some letted not openly to repeate, that Master Lowe dined at Master Iames his board, and lodgde in his wifes bed: which words hee himselfe hearing, (without any checke either to his wife or reproofe to his seruant) after enquiry made, and sound of the first Authoys, hee not onely admonisht but very seriously threatned them, that if they persisted in any such ill kind of speaking, hee would urge the severity of the Law against them, affirming that if any thew of familiarity were betwixt Lowe and his wife, hee durst contest (such and so confident was his trust in both their loyalties) it was both honest, ciuill, and without the reach of any such scandalous suspicion: This his strong confidence and laudable construction of their fault and tainted behauiours might haue beene a meanes, though not of altogether desisting from wronging him, yet to haue staid their intents from pursuite of further mischief: had they not bene altogether of it, or from christian humanity, and



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and absolutely mark and leade for vessels of perdition. But leaving him in his good thoughts, labouring to lay and beate downe the windy tempest of discredit, which their lewde practises had deservedly raised, & followe them in the pursuite of their most damnable and diabollicall intent, namely how to make those stollne pleasures (which all this while they did but p[re]ster from their trow[th] Master) their own; To effect this his learned counsell the Diu[ine] byrbed with no lesse fee then his miserable soule, laid him downe many and severall courses, but in the end concluded it could not any way bee securely wrought, Master James surmising, and against his murther many strong disuasions presented themselves, as first his entertainement into his service, his kind blage, strength of loue, and weakenesse of suspicion, notwithstanding so often and apparantly thereunto brged: against all these the Deuill urges, that the breach of all the commandements is but death, and one is no lesse. Adultery is a sinne, and murther is no more, whithal, how much more better it was to liue like a Master then a slave, to command then to be commanded, with a number of such worldly intling Syllogismes, & stangled his poore and unarmed soule in the limetwigs and snares of perdition, In breife it is finally concluded betwixt his counsell learned: the Deuill and himselfe: that Master James, notwithstanding his entertaining, maintaining, in and from all manner of scandall abetting and him defending, must with his wife and living, giue vp, and to his most bloody hands surrender his deare and most innocent life. His resolution confirmed, the time when, the place where, and the means how, are speedily and most labziously to be determined: how oft and many times attempted: how strangely and almost miraculously prevented, we omit, and come to the inevitable and fatal time (twelue night last past) predestined to bee the sad Porter of so untimely and aboztue ap[ro]digie.

Such is the custome of that Country, that ever at Christmas time the younger sort of both sexes, as well men as women

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Women haue accustomed meetings at neighbors houses where in Ciuill recreation they passe a way part of the tedious euening. Amongst others it was appointed by master James and consented vnto by his wife to invite them to his house, Euening came, the youth assembled: who so forward in their entertainment, and pleasanter to sit and see their pastimes, then master James his wife and especially Maister Lowe. Having worne a while part of the euening, their pastimes grew to an end, when hauing tasted such cheare as the time of the yeare required, and the house at that present afforded, they took their leaues, who no sooner gone, but master James repayed to his lodging, hauing to his bedfellow a pretty girle daughter to him, and his wife, about the age of eight yeeres. For his wife (whether in regard she gaue suck, or some secret promise made to Lowe, or what occasion her thereunto mouing rests incertaine) bedded not with him. He lying in an upper chamber at the one end of the house, and she in a lowe Roome, a parlour vnder Lowes chamber at the other end: the very next wall to master James lay a good sturdy, yet partly Innocent fellow, being all the men seruants he had in his house: for his cheefe seruant was a poore married man dwelling in the towne, whose chance notwithstanding it was that night to light his master to bed, who hauing dispatcht accustomed businesse about the house repayed, as his custome was, home to his owne lodging.

These things thus past, Lowe that all this while was moulding his villanie, chosing out fit time for his abhorred enterpryse, stole privately into Maister James his bed chamber: where though it were extreame darke, by reason the blacke deepe made the night more blacke, yet murther hath Linceus eyes, and can see to act mischief at all times, When into his chamber he enters, where alas, what hart, if but humane would not haue trembled: What hart, if not flint but would haue melted at the very thoughte of the attempt



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tempt? A reverend olde man, the minister of God, his liues  
preseruer, and continuall maintainer, be violently assailed  
the very Elements displeased with his intent loyned all  
their powers in one to disswade him. The offended winds  
put on his roughest wings and brate against the doores as  
if it ment to rush in and discover, or blowe downe the house  
and couer the bodie of the murderer. The heavens threat-  
ned vengeance in thunder, if he desisted not, the melanco-  
ly night though naturally prone to outrages, could not but  
blush for shame, and dart forth flashes of lightning, to make  
him see his sinne, and put him in minde of those eternall fi-  
res in hell kindled and continued for murderers, the com-  
passionate clouds bur into teares, to put his hard heart in  
minde of remorse. But all in vaine, neither the rigour of  
the winds, terror of thunder, fearesubnelle of lightning, nor  
compassion in the clouds could take effect in his obdurate  
and most inhumane bosome but like a beespall sanage car-  
rying his verpouse to his irregular ayre, hee layd violent  
and bloody hands vpon the body of his sleeping Gasser:  
And offering to smother him after some violent straglings,  
Gasser Iames was overheard by the fellow in the next  
room to utter these wordes, what doe you meane, come  
you to murder me? The poore childe in the bed, that lay  
like a silly larkie trembling vnder the foot of a Sparlin, faint-  
ly put forth these speeches good sweet master Lowe kill not  
my deere father, to whom the bloody villaine (the tragedie e-  
uen then in the height of action) replied, peace Hall, holde  
thy tongue, thy father hath no harme: yea God he hath not  
answered the party Innocent, and withall turning towards  
him called, father father hold do you father. When Low in a  
more thurlish language had her hold your tongue brat I  
charge you for waking your father: which said, he smotherd  
vpon the bed clothes and departed the chamber: vpon which  
the poore childe spake no more words, but hoggling close to  
the pet warme and breathlesse body of her father, asked  
him softly how he did & hearing no answer, thinking all to be

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well Embracing him in her tender armes fell asleepe:  
The bloody act thus performed, down goes the murthe-  
rer to bed: whether to hers or his owne rests uncertaine;  
for that hee had command, and vsuall access to boths too  
apparent, but learning him the morning discoverer of the  
close & horrible actions of the night appears, when this fel-  
low heard his mistris, the girlcs, & Lowes speeches, yet  
for feare durst make no outcry, arose, and meeting his other  
fellow that lodged in the town, tolde him that he prayd God  
all were wel with his maister, for that in the night he heard  
a great bussling in the chamber, and such as the like words  
aboue rehearsed there uttered. The fellow vpon these  
words halcked vp to his maisters chamber, where hee found  
him breathlesse, and the pretty child sweetly sleeping, hani-  
ng twined her tender armes about his murdered body, a  
spectacle able to moue pittie in a heart of flint: the fellow  
astonisht at this strange and lamentable sight, ran downe  
and tolde his mistris, who whether for sleepe or of determi-  
ned purpose, she made no answer, but Lowe hearing the re-  
port of Master Iames his murther, start out of his bed, and  
like a man halfe distraught, cryed out, marry God forbid  
where are the murderers? and to gether with the maide  
and the seruant, went by into his chamber, where they  
found him dead, the bed clothes enen and sunned vp: when  
the child waking and finding her father dead, shee fell a cry-  
ing, but the maide tooke her vp in her tender armes, bad her bee  
quiet and sayd shee would put her to master Lowes bed: to  
whome the childe answered, she would not lye with  
him, for hee had kild her father, which the maide well  
noting, carried her downe to her mother: who hearing  
the report of her husbands death, seemed to take it very im-  
patiently, and when the girlc tolde her, Master Lowe kild  
him, she replied, peace soole, hold thy tongue, he loored vs all  
too wel to hurt thy Father, and coming out of her cham-  
ber into an other room, hearing the fellow tell the maide,  
what speeches hee had heard in the night before uttered,  
peace



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peace watch quoth she, dost thou know what thou wilt  
toll thou cast away the man? presently after she was sent  
& heard whispering with Lowe in an entry, where hee was  
heard to utter these or the like speeches, I have devised a  
course for him, and for the rest. I was not a plim, nor one of  
them all can detect me. The concealing and absolute deny-  
ing of all which, were arguments more then sufficient to  
Approve her guilty and party in the murder. But more  
apparently to discover her guilt she caused the Bell to be  
rung & gave it out, that he dyed of his owne naturall death  
which by reason of his age and inward infirmities might el-  
lily have beene credited, and withall sent for a pious old  
man in the towne to visite him, and gave her some mo-  
ney not to take off his shyer, The woman ignorant of her  
intent did accordingly, whereupon he was without any sus-  
pecte (more then private among them selves) brought to  
the ground, and by him buried, by whom not long af-  
ter he had beene most inhumanely butchered. The deed  
thus done: whose dejected countenance so shewed in passi-  
on, & who so serious mourners at his times of funerall to the  
outward shew, as the bloody murderers themselves, thin-  
king all secure from any future trouble: For Lowe hearing  
what words & simple fellow had closely given out, wrought  
this subtil practise to cleave himselfe, & lay the whole burthen  
on this innocent shoulders, for calling this fellow into priuie  
conference, he tels him, he had heard newes that tended to  
his making for ever, if hee will bee wile, and these they are,  
he had understood, that an Uncle of his dwelling at such a  
place lying very sick Inquired for a friend of his, for such an  
one as himselfe, to whom he intended (having neuer had any  
children) to make his only heire, and therefore with him,  
all other businesse set apart, without either asking leave of  
masters or acquainting any other with his purpose, present-  
ly to set forward on his journey: The innocent fellow than-  
ked him, for his good will, but alledged, that hee was altoge-  
ther unfurnisht for such a journey wanting both money and  
shoes, &c. To which Lowe answered, that if hee would

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When he came to his high fortunes, (meaning the gallows) repay him he would for him every way furnished for his journey, which he did, & the following morning see him dispatched onward of his way. The intent of Lowe sending him thus away was this, to accuse him for the murder, which done, his present and secret flight should confirme him guilty of it, and cleere him selfe. If happily it should after come in question, but note the event. It seemes as this fellow was upon his journey, he met a certain neighbour of theirs who had heard some intelling of the former reporte: and meeting him in private questioned him about it, who again certified that after a great bustling in his masters chamber hee heard the words before named uttered, and withall informed him, how master Lowe had perswaded and furnished him on towards a Journey, which hee verily believed would prove utterly scipulous. Whereupon this neighbour tooke him to the iustice next adioyning, a man of good worship and approved iudgment, before whom hee upon his oath confessed, what he had before uttered, whereupon the fellow to whome hee told these words, was sent for, who likewise affirmed, that voluntarily & vnaskt hee told him so much that present morning, and being demanded why they concealed it, they answered that their mistresse commaunded them, saying these wordes, peace wretch, know you what you doe, will you cast away a man without cause? Lowe hearing this later fellow thus sent for, thinking to iustifie himselfe, & accuse y<sup>e</sup> fellow fled for the murder, came to the same iustice, where finding the other fellow before him, he was no doubt somewhat inwardly danted, yet how soeuer, he bore it off with an outward shew, of manly & constant innocencie, saying that if Master James were murdered, he and none but he lying so neare him, or the other fellow lighting him last night to bed, must needs bee the murderers: and these words vnto concerning him, uttered of purpose to cleare themselves, and bring his life in question, as by y<sup>e</sup> present flight of the one was Apparent. The iustice

concealed



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conceals the latter part of the fellows confession, namely that Lowe gave him counsell and money towards his journey, till fitter and riper occasion. Seeming rather to condemn the fellow, then Lowe; notwithstanding he bound them over to the Sessions. Who in outward appearance so great a friend to Master Lowe, as this neighbour; and so mortall an enemy to the other fellows: undertaking to become bound for Lowes appearance, with this promise that he would remaine and lodge in his house: who tooke his kinnesse, as he could not choose, in very good part.

But leaving these matters thus ordered till their fiftten times, we returne to Master Lowe in great and inward familiarity with his new host, whose bylines, by the Justices advice, were all this while labouring how to worke somewhat probable out of his owne mouth, to appease their shroud and manifold suspitions, and thus they dealt. This neighbor before mentioned continuing or rather augmenting his shew of love to Lowe: who, told him in private, that howsoever his case to him seemed cleare enough, yet the Justice had since his first examination, received divers, not only suspitions but very probable advertisements against him, and therefore he as a friend or rather a father, requested, and by love of life commanded him, that if he were any or the least way guilty, or accessory to the deepe, by act or consent at the time present, before or after, he should (setting by all feare and thought of danger) acquaint him with it, as freely as his owne soule, and that if there were any such matter he would undertake by speciall meanes of some his very good friends about the King for a reasonable sum, to procure him pardon. Lowe hearing and some while considering, and well weighing his speeches, after certaine broken and distressed pausings, replied, if I should trust my life in your hands, would you prove faithfull? I would, replied his serving friend, and wale for you as effectually as were you mine owne soule. Lowe overjoyed at these speeches (as men in distresse oft times be)

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brave false shadows and loose the true substance) after a ceremonious conluring him to secrecy, in concealing his speeches, and faithfull celerity in labouring his pardon, he confest to him with a bitter sigh, & those hands (which folding together with his owne breath he curst) were the bloody and vintimely executioners of his Quaker: he wisht him to be silent, and as patient as greife would giue him leaue, further alleaging that if he should peremptorily, vpon his bare and priuate relation to him, aduenture to procure his pardon and faile in it, (as nothing vnedected could be counted certaine,) he might and very iustly sue him, vpon an Action of conspiracy, and deny that euer he told him any such matter, being he had no witness to confirme it, wherefore he wisht him with his owne hand petitionary wise to set downe all and euery the circumstances, acknowledging his owne guilt, and therefore imploring mercy and sauourable mitigation, which being done he further replies, that if Mistresse Iames, whom equally with himselfe he loued, had likewise any hand in it (as the world generally thought) hee should thereto likewise annex it, with the manner, quality, and circumstance thereof, and with one and the same labour and charge, he would undertake and procure a ioynt pardon for them both, but he protested she was altogether innocent of the Act, marry for other familiar acquaintance had and continued betwixt them, he freely confest, and shee her selfe neuer denyed, whereupon his Quaker (seeking by all meanes to draw somewhat from him that might accuse Mistresse Iames) demanded where, and from whom he could procure such summes of money, as should be expended about the purchase of his pardon, he answered hee knew Mistresse Iames would not suffer him to want any money when he could by no meanes draw any thing from him, concerning the consent of Mistresse Iames, he wisht him to set his hand to his confession in approbation of what hee had said, as well to expresse his hartie penitence to the great God himselfe, whomight the sooner be drawne to procure his



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his pardon as also for his owne discharge, in case it should find him to fall short of his intendment.

This done he left him, and in steede of Journeying to Court to procure his pardon, he posted to the Justice whom according to promise, hee acquainted with all the proceedings, with the whole summe and very circumstance of the murder, written and subscribed with Lowes owne hand. But finding Justice James no way toucht in his confession they took this reuen and in common iudgement a direct course to sound her: this neighbour thus furnished with Lowes confession, comes mee in great haste to comfortresse James and finding her giving her childe lucke tolde her as in great secrecie that master Lowe desired her by all lowes, to meete him in such a place, and at such an houre where hee would confer with her about speciall businesse that concerned them neerly both: to which she answered thus. Out upon him, hath hee not brought mee to shame enough, but he would draw my life likewise in question: and so paused, when the other to drawe her further on, your life answered he? marry God forbid upon what occasion: but tis no matter, answered mistresse James, I know your policies better then you imagine, but you both are and shall be deceived in me, and as for master Lowe, pray returne this, I have nothing to doe with him, neither will I stir over the threshold to meete or speake with him (be he guilty of my husbands death) would it save his life. A manifest proove of a strange and unsetled resolution which she continued to, and in the houre of her death: having received this answer he returned, and informed so much to the Justice, who upon these and the like prooves and circumstance committed Lowe to the common Gaile and mistresse James remaining prisoner in the keepers house, where she was the time during, well and kindly used, onely her priviledge of liberty (as was very expedient) restrained.

This sudden and unexpected change of Low begot much

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and unexpected Imaginations in his minde, yet neuer  
dreamt so much as of the least deceipte in his friend. Within  
a while after hee was againe sent for to the Justice, where  
he was examined about the death of Master James, which  
till as before with a confirmed constancy he denied, when  
presently his supposed friend (who he wel hoped had by this  
time procured his pardon) entred and pluckt a paper out of  
his pocket, which master Lowe imagining to bee his par-  
don, grew very pleasant and content, but hearing it reade &  
containing the whole Sum of his confession, was strooke  
into such a maze that hee stood a good space like one in a  
traunce, but coming to himselfe again he uttered these or  
the like wordes, saying, villaine hast thou betrayed mee?  
which spoke he was examined upon sundry Interrogatories  
concerning Master James, but he like a man careless of life  
and feareless of death, with a fallen yet manly countenance  
answered eyther not at al, or else very carelessly and to small  
or no purpose, endeavouring notwithstanding to cleere mis-  
tresse James, had not her owne speeches openly and  
apparently convicted her. Backe againe to the Tayle wee  
conuay Lowe, who seeing all hope frustrate abroade, be-  
gins to practise his enlargement at home, by breaking  
prison, and had not the keeper prevented him, by committing  
late in the night to rescue a poore prisoner in the common  
Tayle he had with his owne freedom brought meanes  
for all those that were in the Tayle to haue escapt, not  
without the keepers better vndoing. For which attempt  
and other vniuill demeanors hee was clapt in prons and  
cast into the dungeon, where leaue him and returne to the  
Sices, at which time both he and she were Arraigned of the  
said felony and villfull murther committed vpon the life of  
Master James, found guilty, sentenced & Iudged, she to be  
burned, and he vpon a hurdle to be drakne to the place of  
execution, and there to be hanged. which Iudgement accor-  
ding to the law was performed, and on the side of a high  
hil called Castle hill in Therford was a fire kindled where



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In the very sight of Lowe she was consumed to ashes, yet so strongly was she grounded in her sin, she never confess her selfe guilty of her husbands death, more then in striving to conceale it, and by that meanes protect the murder. So thus dispatcht, Lowe was drabne to the gallies, where standing vppon the ladder, in the hearing of the souldiers, diuerse Iustices, and a great assembly of people, hauing craved charitable audience hee made this bloody and most lamentable confession.

THE









The true Coppie of *Loves* Con-  
fession, as it was carefully writ-  
ten from his owne mouth.

\* \* \*



IRST, he confest,  
that some few years  
past, before he came  
into the service of  
Master *James*, hee  
had serued in the place of a school  
master: during which time, to  
come roundly to the matter, hee  
fell in loue with a wealthy mans  
daughter, and shee likewise with  
him, so farre as by him shee was

## *Loves Confession.*

with child, who being out of hope to get her fathers consent to the marriage, did for her owne credit, and the repute of her parents, keepe it so close, as without suspicion of any such matter, shee was deliuered, and the child, *Lowe* put forth to nurse, this past *Lowe* intending to haue made her his wife, requested her Fathers good wil, who absolutely denide him; whereupon, one darke euening, secretly hee conueyed fire out of his lodging, intēding to haue burnd his whole dwelling, but missing the dwelling house, he lighted vpon a barne full of corne, and that consumed to the ground, and by meanes of the wind turning (by Gods prouidence of the Iordaine) saued from daunger  
all



*Lowe's Confession.*

all the rest: vpon this hee was suspected, but past it ouer without conuiction: whereupon being for that suspition, and other such like misdemeanours, thrust foorth his place, hee was entertained by Master *James* at *Rockland* aforesaid, where hauing malice still lying in his bosome, hee sent a letter to the nurse of the child to bring it to him, vpon such a heath, for that, in regard hee heard it was not well vsde there, hee had prouided it a new nurse, the man did so, and deliuered it to Master *Lowe*, beeing a horsebacke, who confest that hee smothered it in his cloke, and beeing demanded what became of it after, answered, he left it in the field, being darke, and went to Master

## *Loves Confession.*

*James* his house for a Spade, & with it buried it, next attempted, & obtained the loue of *Mistres James*, and concluded it with the sweete life and deere bloud of her husband, this saide, requesting all such as were there, to pray for him, with hearty penitence, and outward patience, hee seemed to imbrace his death.

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**FINIS:**



